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## THE RESULT IN OHIO

SIR,—My attention has been called to a statement made by you on Page 805 of the December Number of THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW. The statement in part is as follows:

"The most striking instance was afforded by Ohio, where Mr. Herrick had his own committee and organization, and Mr. Willis had his, and Mr. Hughes had none worthy of mention. This division of forces, supplemented by labor disaffection in the North and extraordinary efforts in Mr. Wilson's behalf on the part of the Miners' Union, brought inevitable disaster upon all. Otherwise, unless utterly neglected, Ohio would hardly have parted company with her neighboring States in maintaining unbroken loyalty to the Republican party."

This statement in so far as it relates to Mr. Herrick or myself is false. It implies that each had separate organizations and that neither was loyal to Mr. Hughes. Neither Mr. Herrick nor myself had any personal organization whatever, and we were both entirely loyal to Mr. Hughes. We fought for the whole Republican ticket—National, State and County—and Mr. Herrick and the Republican State ticket went down to defeat with Mr. Hughes.

The only organizations in Ohio were the regular County and State Republican Committees, and these were loyal to Mr. Hughes and the rest of the Republican ticket. There was earnest, loyal effort in every quarter, but the cry, "He has kept us out of war" and "We are enjoying prosperity" proved to be too strong to be overcome.

In fact, I have heard some criticism of our State Committee on the ground that it neglected the interests of the State ticket to promote the welfare of the National ticket. In this criticism I do not join because it is unjust. The Republican State organization did not sacrifice any part of the ticket to promote the advantage of any other part. It was loyal to all and lost all. At the last moment the whole influence of the liquor interests was thrown against the Republican State ticket, and this carried the day for the Democrats.

But Ohio will come back. Watch her! Republicans will sweep the State in 1918 and again in 1920. We lost in 1916, but not because of lack of loyalty on the part of State candidates or the State organization.

I felt sure your article was based on a misunderstanding of the facts, and consequently I have seized this opportunity to state the facts and to deny most emphatically any implication of disloyalty.

COLUMBUS, OHIO.

FRANK B. WILLIS.

[We meant no reflection upon Governor Willis and, even more assuredly, none upon Mr. Herrick, of whose complete fidelity to Mr. Hughes we were well aware. We were only illustrating a seeming lack of cohesion which induced a species of chaos and invited disaster. Nevertheless, if our remark gave rise to the slightest suspicion that we were placing honorable men in a class with Hiram Johnson, we humbly seek pardon from both Mr. Herrick and Mr. Willis.—EDITOR.]

## VITALIZING THE OFFICE OF ELECTOR

SIR,—Your comments on the Electoral College have interested me greatly. I believe that before changing the system, we should take measures to make it work as was intended by its authors. I was perfectly aware at